

September 21, 2010

MINUTES OF THE CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION HELD SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

A Work Session of the City Council of the City of Hopewell, Virginia, was held Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 6:35 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 300 North Main Street, Hopewell, Virginia.

PRESENT: Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor
K. Wayne Walton, Vice Mayor
Curtis W. Harris, Councilor
Michael C. Bujakowski, Councilor
Gerald S. Stokes, Councilor
Brenda S. Pelham, Councilor
Jackie M. Shornak, Councilor

Edwin C. Daley, City Manager
Thomas E. Lacheney, City Attorney
Ann Romano, City Clerk

Mayor Luman-Bailey opened the work session at 6:30 p.m. Roll call was taken as follows:

Mayor Luman-Bailey	-	yes
Vice Mayor Walton	-	yes
Councilor Harris	-	yes
Councilor Bujakowski	-	yes
Councilor Stokes	-	yes
Councilor Pelham	-	yes
Councilor Shornak	-	yes

Mayor Luman-Bailey suggested that the Work Session relocate to the Conference Room.

CITY/CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Tom Lacheney, City Attorney, discussed enhancing communication between the City and its citizens. The blog site is ready to be turned on, and will citizen comments. It will have the capability to screen all comments before posting them. Anything improper would not be posted. The purpose of the blog is to get feedback from the community, but it will filter certain words. Limits can be included for lewd, inappropriate, attacking words. A suggestion was made to try a 24-hour turn around on screening. The City blog will have an IP address. There will be a warning up front before individuals can post comments. Only City Council members will be able to write an article. Citizens can only comment on the topic or article. Only three Councilors are set up right now. A copy of each comment will go to Mr. Lacheney, Julie Sharp-Paralegal, and the blogger. It is still a public forum, but there will be an Editor's Note. (6:57 PM)

1. **City's Financial Plan** – Dr. Daley made his presentation. The first presentation was Capital Fund Alternatives: Trended; Alternative One; Alternative Two; and Alternative Three (copies filed in the City Clerk's Office). The City needs \$900,000 from the current FY 2010/2011 budget. The 2010/2011 budget reduction strategy does not favor any layoffs or furloughs of current personnel. If Verizon prevails with the lawsuit, Hopewell will lose \$50,000-80,000 under Revenue Increases.

2. **City Council's Priorities** - The following are proposed cost saving strategies:
(1) Limits on new hires and promotions;

September 21, 2010

- (2) Printer Project (color printing costs are eight times more than black & white);
- (3) City/Schools Information Systems Study – A meeting was scheduled between the City and the School System about consolidating the I S Systems. Mr. Delacruz of the Rolls Royce Company in Prince George County will study the issue and let the City know if it is feasible. City Councilors asked whether the services could be privatized; whether they could be consolidated with other jurisdictions; or whether they should be kept separate.
- (4) Review of Contracts – The City is looking at all contracts for review next year. Some will be re-bid. There are 12 to 15 types and two or three times that, without including HRWTF.

DISCUSSION: The City needs to look at COLA if the economy recovers. Regarding transportation, the City might be able to use existing busses or school busses for awhile. Regarding the possibility of having a Fall Advance, one will be planned only if Council does not complete its business during scheduled Work Sessions. In reference to past due taxes, the City Treasurer is being very aggressive and successful about collections. The City Attorney's office has coordinated with the Treasurer and is collecting about \$1,000 per month on liens, etc. Concern was raised about the trailer park and relocation of the residents.

ADJOURN

At 8:20 PM the meeting was adjourned by consensus.

Christina J. Luman-Bailey, Mayor

Ann M. Romano, City Clerk